

At the Medical Officer's Compliments.
W. M. R.

STOCKSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1895.

STOCKSBRIDGE:

J. WEBB, PRINTER AND STATIONER

1896.

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INTRODUCTION.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stocksbridge Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of this District for the year 1895.

The most pleasing feature that I have to report is that the General Death Rate is lower than any I can find recorded for this district. This is very satisfactory indeed, and may be attributed largely to the good sanitary condition of the district.

For the first time the Isolation Hospital has been used for other Infectious diseases than Small pox, and with good results, for I doubt not that had the Hospital not been used, the district would have suffered much more severely both from Scarlet and Typhoid Fevers.

Another factor of importance is the fact that the new Bye-Laws have come into operation during the past year. As a result, many nuisances have been removed, and I think I am justified in saying, that never at any time was the district in so good a sanitary condition as at present. Many inspections of premises, &c., have been made and a good deal of work done, both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector of which no record is made in this report.

I would refer here to the outbreak of Enteric Fever which occurred towards the close of the year, and would say that both Council and district are to be congratulated on having escaped what threatened to be a very serious epidemic. This, I think, is due to the capital water supply, the sound sanitary condition of the district, and the use of the Isolation Hospital for the worst cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

W. M. ROBERTSHAW.

STOCKSBRIDGE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE Year ending December 31st, 1895.

Population.—At the Census of 1891 the population of the district was 5677. It may now be safely estimated to have reached 6088.

Births.—During the year 1895 there have been 224 Births, showing a decrease of 5 as compared with the previous year. Of the 224 born, 108 were Boys and 116 Girls.

Deaths.—There have been 103 Deaths registered in the district in the past year, this being a decrease of 16 on last year's number.

This is the smallest number of deaths recorded since 1888, and as the following table will show, the number has frequently been greatly exceeded.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>
1889	139	25·3 per 1000
1890	107	19·2 ,,
1891	110	19·3 ,,
1892	113	19·5 ,,
1893	108	17·9 ,,
1894	119	19·6 ,,
1895	103	16·9 ,,

I attribute this low death rate, as stated before, to, in the first place a capital water supply, secondly, an improvement in the already good sanitary condition of the district, and lastly to the use for the first time of the Isolation Hospital for cases of Infectious disease besides Small-pox.

Classification of Deaths according to Age.

(a). UNDER 1 YEAR.—There have been 32 deaths of Infants under 1 year during the year, as compared with 34 last year. As the total death roll is lower this year than last, it makes this a higher percentage, namely, 31 0/0 instead of 28·5 0/0. There was no one time of the year at which these deaths were more numerous than at another.

(b). 1 AND UNDER 5 YEARS.—I have to record 12 such deaths, as compared with 23 in 1894.

Infant Mortality.—We find that the total number of children who died under 5 years of age was 44, or 42·7 0/0 of the total number of deaths, as compared with 57, or 47·8 0/0 last year (1894).

This is a happy falling off in the Infant Mortality, which I am glad to record.

The chief causes of the above deaths were :—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.	...	...	...	8
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	11
Meningitis, &c.	...	...	...	9

(c). BETWEEN AGES OF 5 and 15 YEARS—total deaths amounted to 6.

(d). BETWEEN 15 AND 25 YEARS—the number was 8.

(e). 25 AND UNDER 65 YEARS—total number reached 30.

The chief cause of these deaths was Phthisis, or Consumption of the Lungs, though 6 were due to Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.

(f). 65 AND UPWARDS —In this division there were 15 deaths.

Year.	Population as per Census.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 5 years.	Births
1891	5677	110=19·3 per 1000	27=26·3 0/0	38=34·5 0/0	264
1895	6088 (Estimated.)	103=16·9 per 1000	32=31 0/0	44=42·7 0/0	224

Deaths Classified according to Causes:—

Zymotic Diseases.—The following is a list of the deaths which have occurred as the result of one or other of the Zymotic Diseases:—

Enteric Fever	4 deaths	} Total, 8 deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1 death
Membranous Croup	...	...	2 deaths
Whooping Cough	...	...	1 death

Last year there were 6 fatal cases of Zymotic Disease.

Enteric Fever.—This has been more or less prevalent in the district since June, and towards the end of the year so many cases were reported that I deemed it my duty to make a special report on the occurrence to the Local Government Board and to the County Council. During the year 18 cases of this disease have been reported to me, of which 2 were under 5 years of age. Most of the cases occurred in Johnson Street and the immediate vicinity. Since then steps have been taken, and I may say successfully, to render this part in a more sanitary condition. Pigstyes, which were much too near the houses, have been done away with; the drains have been looked to and everything got into much better condition. I have made frequent inspections in this district—sometimes accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector—and can, from what I have seen, testify to the improvement which has taken place.

Scarlet Fever.—We have had 28 cases of this disease during the last year. Of this number 20 were removed to and treated in the Isolation Hospital, and happily with a successful result in each case. I think it would be difficult to imagine of what great use this Hospital has been to the district during the past year, not only in preventing the further spread of the disease, but also in the good results which the treatment and attention the cases met with there gave. Some of the patients had the fever in a very bad form, but the majority of them were not extremely severe.

At no period of the year was it deemed necessary to have the schools closed, but every precaution was taken in every case to prevent any spread of the disease.

Diphtheria.—Only one case notified: this occurred in a patient about middle life.

Erysipelas.—There were 4 cases notified. Of these 3 were of the “constitutional” variety, and 1 of the “traumatic.”

Diseases other than Zymotic :—

Dirrahœa.—This was responsible for 11 deaths, all of them occurring in children under 5 years of age. The majority of these deaths occurred in the month of October, and were no doubt due to some extent to the eating of unripe fruit, or fruit in some way unfit for food.

Respiratory Diseases.—This list includes all diseases of the Lungs, except Phthisis. There were 17 deaths from these diseases, of which 8 occurred in children under 5 years of age, and 9 in adults above that age. I fear that the number of deaths in this class will always be high in this district, because the conformation of the neighbourhood and the clay subsoil lend themselves to the production of acute diseases of the Lungs.

Phthisis.—This disease was responsible for the large number of 17 deaths, all being adult cases. This does not represent 17 cases of true Tubercular Phthisis, a large portion of the deaths being cases of destruction of lung tissue due to inhalation of gannister dust. It is satisfactory to some extent to note that whereas in 1894 there were 20 deaths under this heading there are now 17.

Heart Diseases.—Six deaths are attributed to this cause, one of them being in a child, which had malformation of the heart and lived but a few hours.

Injuries, &c.—Only one death has occurred, as the result of an accident. An inquest was held.

Meningitis, &c.—I make special mention of this and allied diseases of the brain, because I consider them somewhat frequent in the district. This year no fewer than 16 deaths are to be attributed to Meningitis; Cerebral Hæmorrhage; Infantile Convulsions, &c. Of the 16 there were 9 in children under 5, and 7 in adults above that age.

The following table shows at a glance the number of deaths attributable to the various causes:—

Classification of Causes of Death.

<u>Class I.—Zymotic Diseases.</u>	Under 5.	Over 5.	All ages.
(1). MIASMATIC DISEASES.)			
Scarlatina	0	1	1
Membranous Croup	1	1	2
Enteric Fever	1	3	4
Whooping Cough	1	0	1
(2). DIARRHŒAL DISEASES.			
Diarrhœa	11	0	11
<u>Class IV.—Constitutional Diseases.</u>			
Phthisis	0	17	17
<u>Class V.—Developmental Diseases.</u>			
Congenital Malformation	1	0	1
<u>Class VI.—Local Diseases.</u>			
(1). DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM ...	9	7	16
(3). DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	0	5	5
(4). DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	8	9	17
<u>Class VII.—Violence.</u>			
Accident	0	1	1
<u>Class VIII. Causes not Specified above</u>	12	15	27
	44	59	103

n Sanitary District of **STOCKSBRIDGE** classified according to
and Localities.

ALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	DiarLoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Meningitis, Convulsions, &c.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
		Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relap sing.	Puerperal.													
	1		1							1	11			8	1	9		12	44
	1		3										17	9	5	7	1	15	59

g to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the
ed according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

ss in each Locality, coming to the
he Medical Officer of Health.

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FEVERS				Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.				
2					1		
16					3		

Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the
several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
				Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.				
	6				2							
	14				3							

g. Since when ? 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with
State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H)
ed, Within district, about 1 mile distant from Council Offices.

Sanitary Work.—Over 70 notices have been served by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, chiefly relating to closets, drainage, keeping of pigs, and infectious diseases. The result has been the abatement of nuisances in the majority of cases.

The Bye Laws have come into action during the year, and consequently we have been able to deal more thoroughly with all nuisances, but particularly with regard to the keeping of pigs too near dwellings. In some neighbourhoods sweeping changes have been made in this direction, mainly in consequence of the energetic action of the Sanitary Inspector.

There was one case in the district of a house unfit for habitation. For some time we were unable to get the owner to make any repairs, but I am glad to report that now that has been put to rights.

To sum up, I am of opinion that the district is in a very good sanitary condition, and I am sure it will compare very favourably indeed with the surrounding districts.

Water Supply.—This is from springs some 2 to 3 miles distant from the centre of the population.

(1). LOWER LEVEL SUPPLY—from Machin Spout and Buckley Springs is collected in stone tanks and small reservoir at Machin Field. Capacity is about 80,000 gallons—say one day's supply.

From this source the water is conducted in iron pipes to about 900 houses in Stocksbridge, Haywoods, Deepcar and Hunshelf.

(2). HIGH LEVEL SUPPLY.—This is from Whitwell Moor Springs, the water from which is impounded in a small collecting stone tank. Thence the water is conveyed in iron pipes to Bolsterstone, Royd, Lane End, Holly Bush, Bracken Moor, and Common Piece to over 120 houses.

In both supplies the water is laid on to the houses by short lengths of lead pipe, terminating in gun-metal taps.

There are close upon 1,200 houses in the district and of this number only about 150 are not supplied from the public mains. These are principally very isolated cases, and are fairly well served from springs, pumps and wells adjacent thereto.

QUALITY.—The quality of the water is perfectly satisfactory, both for drinking and domestic purposes.

SUPPLY.—The reserve of water is that contained in the small reservoir and in the 14 miles of distributing mains. This has hitherto proved sufficient for the demand, if we except such dry summers as last, when towards the end of the dry season there was a risk of running short, and the supply had for a short period to be made intermittent. There is no doubt that in the near future some additional reserve will have to be provisioned for.

In this connection it may be mentioned that water undertakings in this neighbourhood are proposed both by the Sheffield and Barnsley Corporations, and it is thought probable that terms may be come to with one or both of these Corporations with regard to additional supplies for this district in the future.

Before concluding this part of my report I should say that during the early part of the past year a small extension of the mains up Hunshelf Bank was completed, whereby some 15 somewhat isolated houses, previously badly off for water, have been supplied.

Sewerage.—I would premise these remarks by saying that owing to the pressure put upon the District Council by the Yorkshire Rivers Conservancy Board, they (the Council) submitted a scheme of Sewage disposal to the Local Government Board, and that an Enquiry was held here last December by one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and that at the present time the scheme is still under the notice of the said Board.

At present the bulk of the sewage of the district is carried into the river by means of a number of brooklets. These brooklets receive the drainage of the older houses, and were later covered in as sewers.

In the newer portions of the district proper sewers have been laid by the Local Board. These have been ventilated by means of vertical pipes at the upper extremity which have been carried up the gable of some adjoining building.

The house drains are in the majority of cases properly trapped and disconnected.

Scavenging.—The great majority of the privy-middens, &c., in the district have their contents removed periodically by contract. This has been found to act fairly well.

The exceptions to this rule are in the cases of a number of farm houses, the farmers emptying the places on to the land, and using it as manure.

W. M. ROBERTSHAW,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE C. 1895.

Stocksbridge Urban Sanitary District.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,—W. M. ROBERTSHAW, M.B. & C.M.

Term of appointment—1 year. Present Salary £30.

Special Reports presented during 1895—Outbreak of Enteric Fever,
November, 1895.

SANITARY INSPECTOR,—Joe Marsden. Salary, £30.

RATEABLE VALUE (1895) for Poor Rate £19,015 8s. 8d.

“ “ “ General District Rate £15,879 3s. 3d.
“ “ “ 2s 4d in the £.

WATER SUPPLY—Any extension of change during 1895? Extension
to Hunshelf.

Total number of Houses having Public Supply? 1050.

Average daily consumption per head? 20 gallons.

Action on Lead? None

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL—Extension or Improvements
during 1895? Sewerage scheme still under consideration.

SCAVENGING—Are the privy middens, &c., cleansed by sanitary staff,
by contractors, or by tenants? By Contractors.

Frequency? Monthly. Annual Cost? £150.

Is the present arrangement satisfactory? Yes.

BYE-LAWS, REGULATIONS, & ADOPTIVE ACTS—DATE OF ADOPTION.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889. 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. Not adopted.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Not adopted.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds
and Milkshops Orders In Bye-laws, 1895.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number.		General Condition	Legal Pr'c'dings (if any.)
	Reg.	Inspec.		
Common Lodging Houses	1	1	Satisfactory	None.
Canal Boats				
Slaughter Houses	5	5	"	"
Bakehouses	1	1	"	"
{ Dairies				
{ Cowsheds	10	10	"	"
{ Milkshops				
Offensive Trades				

SUBJECT AND LOCALITY.

DATE.

Schemes before L. G. B. Sewerage scheme for District ... 1895.
 L. G. B. Enquiries " " " Dec. 17th, 1895.
 L. G. B. Inspections " " (sites, &c.) Dec. 17th, 1895.

BIRTHS—(a) Number of each sex:—Males 108, Females 116.

(b) Number Illegitimate, including the above—Not notified.

DEATHS—(a) Number of each sex:—Males 60, Females 43.

(b) Number Uncertified, included in above—4; (inquest in
1 case)

DEATH RETURNS—What correction (if any) is made for non-residents
dying within the District?—None.

Are any returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in
public institutions, (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside
the District?—No.

HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES—

Number of Beds—12. Charges to Patients—None.

Additions or Alterations during 1895—Mortuary and Carriage Shed
built.

What Diseases are admitted?—Any notifiable Infectious disease.

How many different Diseases at one time?—2 have been treated at
same time.

DISINFECTION. Apparatus (Steam? Hot-air?) Hot air.

SANITARY WORK—

Number of Houses built during 1895—10.

House to House Inspection during 1895—Many houses visited.

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1894—3. At close 1895—6. Reported during 1895—42. Abated during 1895—39.

Total Number of Summonses, or other Legal Proceedings—None.

House Drainage :—Number of Sinks disconnected during 1895—10.

„ „ trapped „ „ 10.

CLOSETS. Approximate Number of each kind in District—

W.C—20. Earth C.—300. Slop C. (Waste water C)—None.

Pail, Pan or Tub-C,—1. Covered Privy Middens—680. Uncovered Privy-Middens—0. Number constructed during 1894—10.

Kinds, Covered Privy Middens.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Houses unfit for habitation—1 case, remedied. Overcrowding—2 cases, abated.

Seizure of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.

Samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None.

Prosecutions—None.

River Pollution—Sewerage scheme under discussion to keep sewage out of river.

Smoke Abatement—None.

Workshops—Inspected.

STOCKSBRIDGE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1895.

Area of District—4334 Acres.

Houses—erected during year—10.

Houses—total number—about 1180.

Owing to depression in trade a number of families have left the neighbourhood during the past year, rendering empty houses not infrequent, (a rare occurrence in this district) and consequently checking building operations.

Over 70 Sanitary notices have been served by the Inspector during the year, chiefly relating to closets, drainage, keeping of pigs, and infectious disease. The result has been abatement of nuisance in the majority of cases.

Infectious Diseases—Premises visited and instructions, printed and verbal, given.

The new Bye-laws having come into force during the year, by virtue of them a number of the worst cases of pigs kept too near dwellings have been dealt with and remedied.

Erection of new buildings is controlled by said Bye-laws.

Slaughter Houses are now licensed. They have been periodically inspected.

Workshops periodically inspected.

A dwelling house condemned last year has been repaired and put into satisfactory condition.

Two overcrowding cases have been dealt with and abated.

J. MARSDEN,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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